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Homestudy Course in Witchcraft

Preface:

Except possibly time itself, everything in our world needs a beginning, a starting point. This is exactly what this introductory lesson is all about, giving you a point at which to start practicing the craft.

It is important to note that this form of Witchcraft is neither white magick nor black magick, simply magick. Raising energy, whether from you or using deities or spirits, can be used for any purpose; this is a moral choice. Your purpose determines the color of your magick. What about Karma? While I hold a strong faith in Karma, I also find that guilt, in many ways of its own, is Karma.

What makes this course distinctively different from most others is that it lacks an abundance of history and traditions. The magick taught within these pages is based on your own personal energy. You do not need to know thousands of years of other people's practices to develop your inner magick. This course is designed to give you the tools and knowledge you need to get started right away, so pay close attention and keep looking inside of yourself for the best tools: energies and emotions.

Outline:

This introductory lesson is a foundation for your journey through this course and into the craft.

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Self Dedication

A Chapter from the Introductory Lesson of The Complete Homestudy Course in Witchcraft

The first step in learning the craft is Self-Dedication. This, in itself, will allow energies to focus on you. Your body is full of psychic energy which you may already use, and Self-Dedication will open up the earth energies of air, fire, water and earth (known as elementals) to you so you may use them as your own. Each energy that you use is a tool, and the more tools you can use, the stronger your magick.

Self-Dedication and Initiation differ in that Initiation focuses the deity and astral energies to you, while Self-Dedication allows you the ability to reach out and draw the energies on your own.

Read this ritual over and memorize it so you can recite it without having to stop and remember what is next. The reason why some memorization is important is the effectiveness of the ritual is directly related to your ability to fully focus on your task. Interrupting a ritual to look up the instruction can easily distract you and divert your energies elsewhere, hence defeating your purpose.

You Will Need

Three white candles
One red candle
Matches or lighter
Sweet smelling incense, such as rose
(stick or cone is fine)
A cup with water
A quiet place

Example Setup



Setup

This must be done on the night of the full moon.
Place the three white candles in the form of a triangle.
Place the red candle in the middle.
Place the water to the left side of the triangle of candles.

Place the incense to the right side of the triangle of candles.

Self Dedication Ceremony

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.

Light the white tip candle and envision white light shooting up from the earth into the candle.

(Visualize this as best you can. Later lessons will help you develop this ability.)

Light the remaining white candles while saying your name.

Light the incense and walk around the candles while saying:

(If you cannot walk around the candles, simply rotate the incense in a circle around them.)

"On this night, I come before the elements asking for the guardians to arise."

"Open the path, open the gates, open the way, I am here."

Light the red candle.

Say why you have chosen Witchcraft or the way of Magick.

(It is important to be honest with this step.)

(Do not simply state that you want to be a witch.)

(Do some serious soul searching and put your heart into it.)

(You can keep it to one sentence or prepare an elaborate speech.)

Stand in the form of the pentagram and say:

(Standing in the form of a pentagram means raising your arms to shoulder height and spreading your feet about two feet apart.)

"Earth Mother I invoke you."

Stay in this position for a few moments.

Kneel before the candles and take the water.

Pass it through the incense and over the candles while saying:

"Bless me Earth Mother, with this water charge your energies inside."

(This will purify the water.)

Put the cup of water down and place your palms over it,

while envisioning a white light coming from the earth, filling the water. Say:

"As to earth, as to me, may this water purify me."

Hold the cup high over your head and say:

"Open the path, open the gates, open the way, I am here."

Drink the charged water.

Put out the red candle and say:

"Great Earth Mother Blessed Be."

"I am charged, so mote it be."

Let the white candles burn themselves out.

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Tools and How to Charge Them

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Practicing the craft requires a small gallery of tools. They aid you on your path. The tools must be charged with energies from you and the elemental energies. Charge your tools only after properly channeling earth (elemental) energies through Self-Dedication. You will learn all the various uses of these tools (and more will be added) in later lessons.

The tools you will need thus far are as follows:

Athame or Ritual Knife:

This may be of any type you choose, preferably at least four inches in length.

Chalice or Cup:

This may be of any type you choose.

Incense Burner:

This may be of any type you choose.

Bowl or cauldron:

This must be black (painted is fine).

Book of Shadows:

This must be a blank book in which you will write all of your spells, rituals and ceremonies.

To charge these tools, you will need the following items:

Modeling Paint & Paint Brush: In the colors of your choice

Incense: Sandalwood, stick or cone

Salt

Cup with Water

White Candle

Black Candle

Matches or lighter

Herbs: Herbs will be specified with each tool that requires them

Charging Setup:

Place the black and white candles next to each other about two to seven inches apart. Place the cup to the left and the incense to the right. Place the paint and paintbrush anywhere on the altar. Place the athame anywhere under the candles. This charging must be done on the night of the full moon and after Self-Dedication.

Example Setup:



Charging the Athame:

You will need wormwood herb for this charging.

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.

Light the white candle while saying:
"Earth Mother Thee I Invoke."

Light the black candle while saying:
"Blessed be."

Light the incense. Place the salt in the cup while saying:
"Earth Mother charge this water."

Place your hands, palms down, over the cup.

Imagine a white light coming up from the earth into the cup.

Hold your knife up high above your head while saying:
"I call upon the elements of air, fire, water and earth."

Place the tip of the knife into the cup of charged water while saying:
"Be blessed to water and earth."

Pass the knife through the incense and candle flames while saying:
"Be blessed to air and fire."

Hold the knife close to you.

Visualize you and the knife glowing white while saying:
"Be charged creature of life."

Take the wormwood and mix it with the paint.

Paint a pentagram on the handle of the knife.

Place your hands, palms down, over the pentagram while saying:
"Earth Mother charge your symbol. So mote it be."

Take the knife out in the full moon and allow the rays of the moon to touch it.
Always drain the charged water from the cup (chalice) unto the earth.
The knife is charged.

Charging the Chalice:

*You will need the herb basil for this charging.
Charging the chalice should be done during the waxing to full moon.
It can be done immediately after you charge your athame.
Follow the same setup as you did for the athame.
Place the chalice to be charged anywhere under the candles.*

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.
Light the white candle while saying:
"Earth Mother thee I invoke."

Light the black candle while saying:
"Blessed be."

Light the incense.
Put the salt in the cup and with the tip of the athame,
draw a pentagram on the surface of the water while saying:
"As salt with water, I purify thee."

Take the chalice and pour the cup of water into it while saying:
"May this charge this chalice to the elements earth and water."

Visualize the cup glowing white.
Pass the cup through the incense and candles while saying:
"May this charge this chalice to the elements of air and fire."

Hold the chalice over your head while saying:
"Earth Mother bless this chalice in your honor."

Mix the basil with the paint.
Draw a pentagram on the surface while saying:
"So mote it be."

Take the chalice outside and pour the charged water onto the earth.
The chalice is charged.

Charging the Incense Burner:

*You will need nutmeg herb for this charging.
This charging should be done between the waxing to full moon.
Follow the same setup as you did for the athame and chalice,
but replace the cup with the charged chalice.*

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.
Light the white candle while saying:
"Earth Mother thee I invoke."

Light the black candle while saying:
"Blessed be."

Place the incense in the new burner to be charged. Light the incense.

Place the salt into the chalice, then place the tip of the athame in the water.

Draw a pentagram while saying:

"As blade to water, salt to earth, bless this chalice, giving birth."

Visualize the chalice glowing white.

Sprinkle the incense burner with water from the chalice while saying:

"With earth and water, bless this creature of air."

Pass the burner through the candles while saying:

"Fire bless this creature of air."

Hold the burner high above your head while saying:

"Air fill this creature."

Visualize the burner glowing white.

Mix the nutmeg with the paint and paint a pentagram on the burner, saying:

"Earth Mother, bless this piece of art in your name. So mote it be."

Take the burner outside and let the incense rise to the skies for a moment.

(Always drain the charged water from the chalice unto the earth.)

The incense burner is charged.

Bowl or Cauldron Charging:

You will need the herb wormwood for this charging.

Follow the same setup as you did for the athame, chalice and incense burner, but replace the incense burner with your charged one.

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.

Light the white candle while saying:

"Earth Mother thee I invoke."

Light the black candle while saying:

"Blessed be."

Place the salt into the chalice of water.

Place the tip of the athame into the water.

Draw a pentagram on the surface of the water while saying:

"As blade to water, salt to earth, bless this chalice, giving birth."

Visualize the chalice glowing white.

Pour the water into the bowl.

Place the tip of the athame into the bowl while saying:

"Charge this creature elements of all. Bring to it your loving call."

Pass the bowl through the incense and candles.

Hold it above your head. Visualize it glowing white while saying:

"Earth Mother let this be your eyes."

Mix the wormwood with the paint.

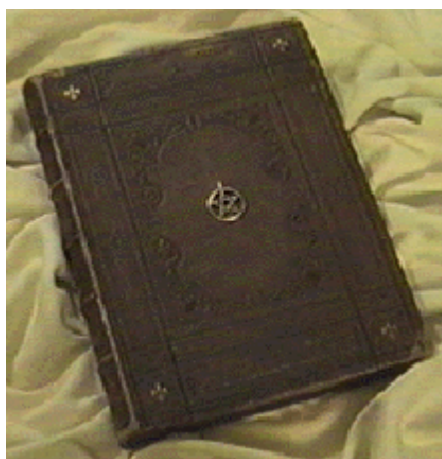
Paint a pentagram on the bowl while saying:
"So mote it be."

Take the bowl outside and pour the water unto the earth.
The cauldron is charged.

Book of Shadows:

The Book of Shadows does not need to be charged in the same manner as your other tools. It is simply a blank book of any type you choose, in which you write all of your ceremonies, rituals, spell and results.

Begin your book by recording your experiences through the Self-Dedication process, meditation and charging your tools. Continue your journal in your Book of Shadows with each practice of the craft. Your next entry should be about wax and water.



Sample Book of Shadows

The Book of Shadows is an important tool as you learn about and explore the craft. You will find that some spells and rituals work better than others. The best way to find out which techniques work well for you is to keep track of them.

Some important information to record is time of day, phase of the moon, weather, emotional state, outside noises, distractions, location, items used and results. This book will soon develop into a very useful and essential tool.

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Wax and Water Rite

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Some say the best readings are from tarot cards or runes. Directions for these will be discussed in later lessons. For me, however, the wax and water method works best. Though it may take some practice to become very effective, it is an easy process to learn. This too was my first divination tool.

You Will Need:

One white candle

(Use the same candle every time you use this rite.)

(When the candle runs out, simply get a new one and do the same.)

Matches or lighter

Your charged black bowl or cauldron

(filled with water)

Example Setup:



Wax & Water Rite

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.

Light your white candle and state out loud what you need to know.

Hold the candle tilted over the bowl of water so the wax drips into the bowl.

Watch the wax and look for symbols it might form.

When you see one, stop.

(such as an owl, house, heart, etc.)

The drippings may even clearly spell out the answer using letters or numbers.

In this case, continue until the letters or numbers stop.

After you have a symbol, you must interpret it.

(Only you can do this - I can tell you what an owl means to me, but it may mean something entirely different to you.)

Simply take the symbol and consider what it means to you.

Such as an owl might mean sight, luck, beauty, money, etc. to you.

If it spells out letters or numbers, you may not have to do any interpreting.

Practice this, and you should become very effective at it.

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Basic Candle Magick

A Chapter from the Introductory Lesson of The Complete Homestudy Course in Witchcraft

Here is a taste of magick you may use as soon as you complete the Self-Dedication period. This type of candle magick is very basic, yet quite effective. Lesson Four will deal solely with magick, but this being an introductory lesson, it is only fair to include a taste.

This is a good time to iterate how closely Karma and ethics are intertwined. If you cast an evil spell, you may be in for some Karma even though you might call yourself a white witch. You choose your own color of magick, not once, but each time you practice. Some traditions believe in Karma as "What you do comes back to you". Do you? This is your own moral choice. The magick you will learn from this course and the magick you will learn to create on your own can be used for any purpose.

Keep in mind that for any magick it is best (though not necessary) to do calling magick, such as money, love, health, luck or anything that brings something to you, during the waxing moon (first quarter) to the full moon. Banishing magick, such as bindings, quitting bad habits, curses or anything pushing energy away should be done during the waning moon (last quarter) to the new moon. These are optimal times, but you cannot always base your magick around the moon.

Basic candle magick deals only with two colors, white and black (Lesson Four will have a complete list of color or meanings). Envision the white candle as the waxing to full moon and the black candle as the waning to new moon. For any calling purposes, use the white candle. For any banishing purposes, use the black candle. (Note: Always use candles that are one solid color throughout. Scratch some wax off to test this if you are not certain.)

You Will Need:

One white or black candle
Candle holder
Matches or lighter
Olive oil
(a small amount)

Basic Candle Magick Spell

Perform STEP ONE, Meditation.

For white candle:

Rub oil from the tip of the candle towards the base,
while humming and visualizing your reason for doing this spell.
Continue humming and visualizing for about five minutes.

For black candle:

Rub oil from the base of the candle towards the tip,

while humming and visualizing your reason for doing this spell.
Continue humming and visualizing for about five minutes.

Continue for either candle:

Place the candle into the holder and light it.

Chant your chant for as long as you can while visualizing your purpose.

To chant, use a monotone humming voice.

(You should create a specific chant for your purpose.)

(It can be as simple as one word or as complex as you wish.)

(Examples: "Money, money, come to me", "bring love",

or "Protection surround me, complete serenity".)

When you cannot chant and visualize any longer,

put the candle out and repeat the spell the following night (or day).

After you see the first glimpse of the results of your spell,

let the candle burn all the way out.

Remember, after the completion of any spell or ritual, always say:

"So mote it be."

(This simply means "It is over.")

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